1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Punjab	2.71	2.84	3.33	2.17	3.35	2.15
12.	Rajasthan	30.17	35.30	32.16	32.96	34.50	38.76
13.	Tamil Nadu	16.35	15.15	18.00	18.80	18.70	17.75
14.	Uttar Pradesh	15.64	15.39	16.15	10.06	17.00	13.04
15.	West Bengal	4.68	4.30	4.70	3.88	4.80	4.66
16.	Others	1.90	1.05	0.80	1.09	0.90	0.95
	ALL-INDIA	230.00	243.85	255.00	220.15	270.00	252.99

Fire in ONGC gas well at Bombay High

*351. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out on 12.3.99 at an ONGCs gas well on Bombay High;

(b) if so, the estimated losses suffered as a result thereof and whether the services of experts, particularly from abroad were sought to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and total expenditure incurred on such foreign services; and

(d) the exact cause of the fire in ONGCs well on Bombay High and the steps taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The losses could be quantified only after the fire is extinguished. The services of international experts viz., M/s. Cudd Pressure Control, Inc., USA were sought to quench the fire and to control the well. The provisional expenditure incurred on engaging the foreign services upto 06.04.99 is approximately Rs. 2,63,88,600/-. The expenditure in quenching *the* fire and controlling the well including the fee of foreign experts. besides the repair loss on damage to platform and rig, etc., will be reimbursed by the Insurance Company.

(d) During the repair operations on well # B-121-B with the help of rig Sagar Ratna, heavy build-up of pressure was observed in another well # C. While action to control pressure in this well was being taken, like misbehavior was noticed in well # D accompanied by gushing of high intensity mud and uncontrolled flow of gas. The uncontrolled flow of gas from well # D caught fire on 12th March, 1999.

ONGC has constituted a high level inquiry committee headed by ex-CMD of Oil India Ltd. to ascertain the factors leading to this accident, the lapses, if any, and the steps required to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee is to submit the report by 15th April, 1999.

Transfer of Government Officials

*352. SHRIMATI JAYAPARDA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any time limit for its officials to remain posted at one place in the Ministries/Departments etc.;

'b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether it is a fact that those orders arc not being followed in letter and spirit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and